

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

22. (currently amended) A parenteral pharmaceutical composition for treating a viral liver disease comprising an  $\alpha$ -interferon B/D hybrid contained in liposomes formed from a lipid mixture having a phase transition temperature of 20°C to 30°C wherein the lipid mixture comprises 50 to 75 mol % of a neutral phospholipid, 20 to 40 mol % of cholesterol and 5 to 10 mol % of a negatively charged phospholipids and wherein the molar ratio of neutral phospholipid: cholesterol: charged phospholipid is 9:5:1.
23. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the  $\alpha$ -interferon B/D hybrid is a  $\alpha$ -interferon BDDBB hybrid.
24. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the neutral phospholipid component comprises at least one phosphatidylcholine[[s]].
25. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the neutral phospholipid component is dimyristoyl phosphatidylcholine or a mixture of dimyristoyl phosphatidylcholine with another neutral phosphatidylcholine.
26. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the negatively charged phospholipid component comprises at least one phosphatidylserine.
27. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the negatively charged phospholipid component is dioleoyl phosphatidylserine.
28. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the lipid mixture comprises 55 to 70 mol % neutral phospholipid, 25 to 36 mol % cholesterol and 5 to 10 mol % negatively charged phospholipid.
29. (cancelled).
30. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the liposomes have an average particle size up to 200 nanometers.
31. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 30 wherein the liposomes have an average particle size of 80 to 180 nm.
32. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the weight ratio of the  $\alpha$ -interferon B/D hybrid to the lipid mixture is from 1:400 to 1:300.
33. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein the liposomes are in dehydrated form.

34. (withdrawn) A method of preparing a composition according to Claim 22 comprising removing solvent from a solution of the lipid mixture in an organic solvent to give a lipid residue, mixing the lipid residue with an aqueous medium containing an  $\alpha$ -interferon hybrid, agitating the resulting mixture to obtain an aqueous suspension of liposomes containing entrapped ( $\alpha$ -interferon hybrid and extruding the suspension through one or more membrane filters.